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Net paid bona fide actual daily  
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is greater than the combined circulation  
of the

Evening Sun,  
Mail and Express,  
Evening Post,  
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Evening Telegram.

There are great many good things on  
the face of this globe.

The politicians didn't get the blanks in  
the first municipal drawing of the year.

The Republicans are now drawing  
the color line just outside the party.

Of the building of new hotels and  
there seems to be no end in New  
York just now.

Things having come to a close shave in  
the Kansas Legislature, of course Mrs.  
Lease can no longer be considered in the  
senatorial field.

The forces urging towards New York  
Brooklyn consolidation are ceaseless in  
their operations.

It is a desperate catch-as-catch-can  
wrestle that the health officers are having  
with the typhus.

Electric lighting should long ago have  
become an established system in all well-  
regulated railway passenger services.

Ex-Mayor Hewitt says he has grown  
wiser as to the rapid transit question. So  
has the public. No kidding to the "L"  
road.

The State Legislature, on its first two  
days, set itself an example of promptness  
which it may well follow throughout the  
session.

The World's crusade for good roads in  
the Annapolis District is awakening an  
interest which must result most bene-  
ficially.

Connecticut should act promptly in ac-  
cord with Gov. Monro's recommendation  
and reconstruct its ancient and out-  
dated Constitution.

It may be true, as published, that Mr.  
CLEVELAND has never seen Mr. PLATT.  
But it is certain that he has more than  
once gone him one better.

Chicago firemen can be heroes, too.  
They proved it by their gallant rescue of  
comrades yesterday from a huge building  
wrecked by flame and natural gas.

The most serious forger has turned up in  
Elizabeth. He exchanged a \$5 bill for his  
intended victim's check for the amount.

in order to get a pattern for his forgery.  
It sometimes was to put a limit on  
one's accommodation to plausible strangers  
in the matter of checks and signatures.

**REAL REVISION.**  
The Legislature did well to pass the bill  
amending the Constitutional Convention  
law, so as to avoid a midwinter election,  
before the recess. The people want and  
the State needs a revision of the Constitu-  
tion. We have outgrown some of its  
provisions and experience has pointed  
out improvements that can be made in  
others. The main Constitution has been  
in existence nearly fifty years. It has  
been patched up from time to time, but  
it will be better for a thorough over-  
hauling.

The people did not want a midwinter  
election, and hence the amendment to  
the law was desirable. The Republicans  
who oppose every Democratic measure,  
necessarily without reason or with reason,  
were compelled to admit that the law  
as now framed is a fair one, and made  
no very serious opposition to the passage  
of the bill.

Now let both parties take care to send  
their very best men as delegates to the  
Convention, and we shall secure a Con-  
stitution that will insure the progress  
and prosperity of the State for another  
fifty years.

**A CASE IN POINT.**  
Mr. HAMILTON WOOD, formerly a  
picture-leader at 825 Broadway, tells a  
very strange story and makes a serious  
charge against his wife, whom he accuses  
of having secured his confinement in a  
lunatic asylum for nearly thirteen years.

Mr. Wood protests that he was all the  
time perfectly sane. The asylum in which  
he was placed is at Danvers, Mass. He  
was transferred to Worcester a year ago.

Of course, the story needs confirmation  
so far as the claim to sanity is concerned.  
Mr. Wood says he has sent letters to  
various begging them to obtain his re-  
lease scores of times during the period of  
his incarceration. But when they visited  
the asylum they were told he was insane,  
and that seems to have satisfied them. At  
last some old companion procured his  
liberation.

A few days ago the Attorney-General  
of this State decided that all private  
lunatic asylums must be licensed by the State  
Board and thus come under the super-  
vision and partial control of the Board.  
Mr. Wood's case points the expediency  
and humanity of this requirement. If  
asylums can be run without any super-  
vision by the proper authorities, cases of  
unjust and cruel imprisonment in such  
places may be possible, and the possi-  
bility of such a brutality should not be al-  
lowed to exist.

**BROOKLYN'S FIRE SCANDAL.**  
The charges or allegations made against  
the Brooklyn Fire Department by repre-  
sentatives of the Board of Underwriters  
yesterday are of a very serious character.

Mr. J. H. WARDEN, of the Home In-  
surance Company, who was the spokes-  
man, told Mayor Booy that the Depart-  
ment was accused of the grossest breaches  
of discipline. Among other things it was  
said that they had gone fixed in saloons  
to give them signals while they were  
loitering and gambling in such resorts.

Mr. WARDEN expressed a doubt  
whether a man who spent much of his  
time on race tracks and in his own yard  
was fit person for Chief of a Fire De-  
partment, or was likely to secure dis-  
cipline in the force.

The fact was noticed that the introduc-  
tion of the trolley railroad system was  
regarded by the underwriters as increas-  
ing the hazard, and was one of the reasons  
for raising the rate of insurance.

The charges against the Fire Depart-  
ment are to be made in writing and then  
Mayor Booy is to appoint a committee  
to investigate them. The people ought  
to demand that the investigation shall be  
thorough.

**PARALLEL CASES.**  
Mayor Booy has stirred up the political  
with beasts in the Kings County town  
members by his proposition to draw  
them all into limits of the city of Brook-  
lyn.

The Mayor told the people of the towns  
that dual governments caused needless  
expense and were productive of antagonis-  
tic purposes, while concentrated respon-  
sibility would stimulate enterprise and  
enhance the value of property.

He now finds the Supervisors, the town  
constables, and every seedy politician  
who can pick up a dollar out of a town  
job, "jumping upon him with both feet,"  
as the political vernacular expresses it.

One Supervisor calls Mayor Booy's  
suggestion ridiculous, and says that when  
the people of his town want to be annexed  
to Brooklyn they will say so.

Does not Mayor Booy recognize in the  
opposition of the politicians of the county  
towns to his proposition of annexation  
and the approval of the people, an exact  
parallel to the situation in the case of  
the proposed union of the two cities? The  
political harpies fight union tooth and  
nail. The honest people desire union, heart  
and soul. The arguments the Mayor  
uses in support of annexation are pre-  
cisely applicable to union. Why then  
was Mayor Booy silent in his message  
on the greater question of the union of  
New York and Brooklyn?

**THE MICHIGAN ELECTORAL LAW.**  
The Republicans, holding control of  
both houses of the Michigan Legislature,  
promise to repeal the Miner Electoral  
law, which provides that Presidential  
electors shall be chosen by Congressional  
districts. The law did not please the  
Republicans last year, because without it  
they would have secured the entire elec-  
toral vote of the State, while under the  
Miner law the electors are divided.

As soon as a law works politically  
against the Republicans, the party clamors  
for its repeal. The question of the  
public good does not enter into consid-  
eration. If the law offends thee, wipe it  
off the statute book, is the principle, or  
the want of principle, on which the poli-  
ticians act. The Republicans were blam-  
ed for the enactment of Ballot Reform  
laws on the Australian plan everywhere,  
and rated the Democrats on their alleged  
opposition to such a beneficent measure.  
Now that the Ballot Reform laws work

against the Republicans by securing the  
secrecy of the ballot and preventing bri-  
bery, they are equally loud in demanding  
their repeal.

These are very small political methods.  
The West is growing more and more  
Democratic every year, and the chances  
are that if the Michigan Republican  
Legislature repeals the Miner act the  
whole electoral vote of the State in 1900  
will be cast for the Democratic candi-  
dates. The progress of thought and  
judgment among the people cannot be  
checked by special legislation any more  
than the waves of the sea can be swept  
back with a brush broom.

**FAINTING BRIDE.**  
Swooning during the wedding cere-  
mony is becoming fashionable. In the  
past month there have been several in-  
stances of interrupted nuptials, due to nervous  
collapse in the presence of matrimony.  
The other day a bridegroom fainted,  
three times in the church, and this  
morning we learn that a Bridegroom  
(N. J.) bride was overcome when the  
momentous question was propounded by  
the minister, and toppled over into the  
arms of the bridegroom.

Her mother who didn't want to see her  
fainting alone, thought she'd take "some  
of the same" and in a minute made her-  
self a source of solicitude to a few of the  
wedding guests. There was so much nu-  
merous in the assembly that the cere-  
mony was adjourned to another day.

It seems all right for a bride to be  
overwhelmed by her feelings on the hap-  
piest day of her life, but for a bride-  
groom to let go of his presence of mind  
or a prospective mother-in-law to forget  
her where-and-when-ness on such an  
occasion looks a little remarkable, and  
there can be scarcely any other excuse for  
it than that swooning brides and fainting  
bridegrooms are the latest freaks of  
fashion.

There would probably be more fainting  
brides at the altar if all of them knew  
what matrimony had in store for them.  
But the men and the mothers-in-law  
always get the best of matrimony, and they  
have no business to pretend to have  
epileptic or cataleptic fits over the closing  
of the largess.

Two Russian Generals interviewed in  
Paris think a war with Germany would  
be popular. It would certainly furnish  
an engaging subject for international dis-  
cussion and would be much more exciting  
than the peace of Europe. But the cost  
it would involve in blood ought to make  
even the idea of it unpopular in this  
country.

So Force-BRIE LORON is to go to the  
Senate? Well, the people have fixed  
things so that he can't do much damage  
anywhere in Congress; so he might as  
well be in the upper as in the lower  
house.

Dumping city garbage off Owl Point is  
an outrage. The people should revolt  
against New York's primitive methods of  
handling its refuse. And the revolt  
can't come too soon. A sanitary's the  
thing.

"Lack of steam" caused last evening's  
interruption of traffic on the bridge cable  
railway, which occurred, as such things  
usually do, at the time when the rush was  
greatest. At any rate, the excuse is new.

Editors and reporters are to be ex-  
cluded from attack in the anti-Sunday  
paper crusade in Pittsburgh. Their form  
of returning thanks will make interesting  
reading for the crusaders.

Within the last few days very uncon-  
formable charges of burglary, assault and  
extortion have been divided among five  
New York policemen. It should not have  
been possible.

If the machine Senatorial pattern is ac-  
cepted at Albany, to that extent New  
York City, in its gain of Assemblymen,  
will have gained simply in misrepresentation.

If Michigan Republicans have their  
way the Miner Electoral law will be  
blasted. And they were able to organize  
both houses of the Legislature yesterday.

Farmer DUNN's promised harvest of  
snow came on time. The agriculturist of  
the Equitable Building is really a good  
deal of a prophet.

Perhaps the new Diana of the Madison  
Square Garden tower is intended as a  
protest against the prevailing extravagance  
in dress.

Tammany has the right of way at  
Albany and wants the right of the in-  
auguration parade line at Washington.  
Anything else?

Bacteria have been discovered in old  
paper money. But few of us needed this  
additional inducement to let the stuff go  
in a hurry.

The absorbing question among St.  
Louis beer consumers may be whether  
the brewery war is to affect the height of  
the collar.

Mr. BRADY wants a halt in pension  
legislation. Even a retreat could be  
worked to National advantage.

Chicago's experience at yesterday's  
disastrous blaze indicates that nature is  
treacherous in natural gas.

There is a notable absence of contro-  
versy as to who was the model for that  
new Diana of the tower.

It creates a miracle  
... of energy ...

**H-O Hornby's**  
Oatmeal

At a still greater  
miracle of cost.

At a still greater  
miracle of cost.

At a still greater  
miracle of cost.

At a still greater  
miracle of cost.

At a still greater  
miracle of cost.

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**CHILD'S COLUMBIAN LIBRARY.**

Mrs. Clara Doty Bates, a Disting-  
guished Lady, Has It Planned.

A List of Fighting Books from a  
Boy of Eleven Years.

CHICAGO, Jan. 4.—There is to be a library  
in the "Children's Home" at the World's  
Fair.

Mrs. Clara Doty Bates was selected by the  
Library Congress to select the material and  
conduct the work.

And the possession of superior  
qualifications she has the good fortune of  
being in store, and as a result her plans are  
succeeding, her work is progressing, and  
there are indications that "The Children's  
Columbian Library" will become famous  
the literary world over.

Mrs. Bates is a sweet, sympathetic woman.  
She comes from a family that has distin-  
guished itself in educational, literary and  
professional circles, and she is personally, as  
well as intellectually, fitted for the honor  
that her friends have conferred upon her.

First of all, she understands children and  
she has the happy faculty of making  
them understand her. What she calls  
"invaluable assistance" in her present  
work comes from the boys and girls who visit  
her when she visits.

She has been deluged with books ever since  
her connection with the work became known,  
and it would astonish some of the New York  
contributors if they knew with what supreme  
indifference she received them.

She flatly and emphatically refuses to ac-  
cept the literary judgment of big fishes; she  
will not even look at the lists of selected  
reading for Sunday-school and family libraries,  
and she is determined to protect the  
youngsters from the book-making quacks  
who, pill-fashion, coat their sermons and  
lectures with romance and adventure.

"I want this little library to be modeled  
from the child's point of view," Mrs. Bates  
remarked yesterday as she wearily put her  
way through a mass of publisher's letters.

"The books are to represent the literary  
tastes of the children; they are not for  
library furniture, nor for the parents; they  
are for the children, and if they do not please  
the children they will be eliminated.

"We want to educate the old folks and  
please the young folks, which is reversing  
the usual order of things. The average book  
buyer plunges himself under the delusion of  
educating the child.

"If the boys of this generation like fight-  
ing books, they shall have them, and if it  
pleases the little girls to read party stories  
we shall indulge the taste. I propose to get  
my lists of books from the children who read  
books, not from a merely have them, but who  
read them and are familiar with their char-  
acters.

"From these lists we shall select the book  
shelves. The collection of these lists is much  
more difficult than perhaps you imagine, for  
the reason that the child is apt to yield to  
the literary influence of the adult, either at  
home, in the public library, the school or  
book store.

"The idea is to get at the childish fancy,  
otherwise the collection is worthless. With  
this object I have been very busy cultivating  
the acquaintance of children. Instead of  
dining out as I would like to have done all  
season, I have had to accept invitations to  
noon meals and a chicken bread-and-milk  
supper, but the gastronomic losses have been  
more than covered by literary gains.

"Lists are coming in now, and I am very  
well satisfied with the results.  
"The library plan proper is divided into two  
departments, one to represent the taste of  
children from seven to twelve years of age  
and the other from thirteen to seventeen  
years. There are to be twenty works in the  
first and fifty in the other department. Just  
now we are engaged on the former.

"The girls have not been heard from yet,  
but the boys are educating me daily. I have  
only just begun to know my ignorance of  
their attainments.

"The little fellow, eleven years of age, the  
son of a distinguished Chicago lawyer, had  
worked three weeks on this list. He is a  
child who cut his teeth on books; he had ab-  
solutely no assistance; letters of introduction  
gave him the freedom of libraries and  
book stores, and he got the names of pub-  
lishers as well as authors for us.

"The list is interesting because it proves  
that the small boys' fancy turns to the so-  
called 'fighting literature.'"

I. *Custer's Last Fight.*  
II. *Twelve Nights in a Hunter's Camp.*  
III. *Four Years of Fighting.*  
IV. *Lost Among the Wild Men.*  
V. *The French Prisoner.*  
VI. *Hobson's Choice.*  
VII. *Swiss Family Robinson.*  
VIII. *The H. O. W. C.*  
IX. *Lost in the Fog.*  
X. *Lost in the Woods.*  
XI. *Fighting Jim.*  
XII. *Taken by the Enemy.*  
XIII. *Within the Enemy's Lines.*  
XIV. *On the Blockade.*  
XV. *The Soldier's Story.*  
XVI. *The Young Lieutenant.*  
XVII. *Brave Old Sam.*  
XVIII. *Out West.*  
XIX. *Brother's Battle.*  
XX. *Campfire and Wigwag.*

In the mean time Mrs. Bates has sent  
letters all over the word asking the assist-  
ance of American consuls in circulating the  
prospects of the library. The very people  
desired have been reached and the answers  
seem to indicate an expression from the  
reading children of civilized society.

The first donation of foreign books came  
from Italy, with the Christmas greeting of  
ten little folks. They were selected by boys  
and girls and are as unlike the fighting books  
of the young Chicagoans as Buffalo Bill's show  
and Verdi's new opera.

Mrs. Bates is in communication with the  
publishers and authors of the best class of  
children's literature from whom she expects  
great help in a personal and professional  
way. She is completing arrangements for  
a "Little Folks' Congress of Authors" that  
is certainly unique.

At stated intervals there will be children's  
library day in the small assembly hall when  
the children may meet their favorite authors.  
The poet or writer will be asked to bring one  
of his own books and talk to the little folks.

No lecturing will be allowed and the visitor  
is expected to be "just as nice as his book,"  
and to answer all the questions his admirers  
may wish to ask. Invitations to attend this  
charming congress have been accepted by the  
following writers:

Oliver Optic, Thomas Bailey Aldrich, Rose H.  
Lathrop, Mrs. Burton Harrison, Richard Har-  
ding Davis, Eugene Field, Lew Wallace, Annie  
Selous, Sophie Sweet, Edwidge S. Brooks,  
Kate D. Wiggin, Mrs. Abby Martin Diaz, Elie  
Whitely Wilcox and the editors of St. Nic-  
olas and Wide Awake.

Andrew Lang, who is expected to tell all  
about the "Red Fairy," George MacDonald, G.  
A. Henty, Mrs. Molesworth and several Eng-  
lish writers have been promised to be present at  
a children's day.

Mrs. Bates has the refusal of all the literary  
furniture she can use. Models of shelving,  
cases, bookcases, chairs, tables, lamps, win-  
dow shades, etc., have been sent in by manu-  
facturers and designers, together with all  
manner of stationery goods suitable for  
children's use.

This feature of the library will be a big  
round table, without any cover and with  
plenty of room for elbows. All the standard  
magazines in all the languages will be on file,  
and everything will be at the command of the  
children.

The walls are to be adorned with the por-  
traits of cherished authors, and in the deco-  
rations of the walls, quotations, mottoes and  
sweet words will be inscribed.

Mrs. Clara Doty Bates's library work will be  
watched with interest, and even now there is  
talk of perpetuating the children's Columbian  
Library, so successful in its success.

**SPICED SCISSORINGS.**

**Traction Company vs. People.**  
The case round about the people with both  
eyes blacked, two arms broken and a leg  
gone, but the Traction Company is still safe.

**The Harmony of Absorption.**  
If Tammany continues to swallow Republicans  
and County Democrats at the present rate, it  
will reduce a barometer as accurate as the silk  
cost of a well-fitted coat.

**The Finest Point in Heresy.**  
From the Chicago Times.  
Dr. Briggs is to be tried again. Surprising  
the brother ecclesiastical court finds him guilty,  
won't convict of heresy the sixteenth time  
because he has just voted for his neighbor?

**Where Canvases Shouldn't Be King.**  
From the Philadelphia Record.  
A Missouri school teacher, who has been  
cleverly accused, is never should be.

**Mr. Peffer's Altered Plans.**  
From the Chicago Times.  
Senator Peffer, of Kansas, has decided to act  
with the Democrats, thus making a considerable  
change in his arrangements. It was Peffer's  
original plan that the Democrats should act with  
him.

**With It's Wilderness Redeemed.**  
From the Chicago Times.  
With elevated tracks, clean streets, pure water  
and pure air Chicago will become habitable  
again.

**WORLDLINGS.**  
Bismarck is said to be increasing greatly among  
the lower classes in England.

A London confectioner says that he is some-  
times called on to furnish wedding cakes wel-  
coming 1,000 guests each and puddings of a size  
sufficient for 500 hearty appetites.

Every town in Mexico has a public bath-house.  
Pennsylvania produces more cigars than any  
other State in the Union.

There are fifty-seven counties in Texas, each of  
which is larger than Rhode Island.

Christopher Benson, an old man of eighty-six  
years, in the Philadelphia almshouse, is said to  
be the oldest living man in the country.

He ran the old engine "John Bull" on the  
Albany and Schenectady road fifty-two years  
ago.

The historic chateau at Crey, France, has  
been sold to a rich manufacturer for \$500,000.  
It was once the home of Voltaire.

There are 27,000 places for the sale of liquor  
in Paris, and throughout the Republic there is  
one saloon for every eighty-seven people.

The profits of the Paris Post-Office amounted  
last year to \$10,000,000.

In the treasury of the Vatican there is a pearl  
valued at \$100,000.

**Why He Went Insane.**  
I had just taken my seat in the car when  
an elderly gentleman entered, closely fol-  
lowed by a young man of decidedly fashion-  
able aspect. They secured seats near mine  
and were soon absorbed in their newspapers,  
says a writer in the Chicago News.

Finally the elder lowered his paper and  
said: "By the way, Frank, what has become  
of Singleton? I haven't seen him for some  
time."

"He was adjudged insane and is now in an  
asylum," said Frank.

"Can that be possible? Why, what was  
the cause?"

"Oh, he was a crank, and his mind was  
continually agitated in his frantic endeavors  
to start some new society. Had. When Mrs.  
B— gave her first dove dinner his actions  
and efforts to counterbalance it by some new  
wrinkle of his own were a source of great  
amusement to all the fellows. He finally  
dropped that, and everything went smoothly  
with him until Miss Richly gave a pink tea.  
Singleton's wheel again started to revolve,  
and he issued invitations to all the fellows to  
attend a white breakfast, to be given at his  
home."

"Did you go?"

"Oh, yes."

"Of what did the dinner consist?"

"White bread, celery and abstemious."

"Well," said the old gentleman, as he arose  
to leave the car, "I don't wonder that he  
was sent to an asylum."

**Risky.**  
From the Boston Herald.  
Irate Father—"Young man! am I engaged,  
sir, that you should seek to marry my daughter  
on so short an acquaintance. You are  
almost a stranger to her."

Stubbins firmly—"Well, she doesn't take any  
more chances than I do. She's almost a  
stranger to me, too."

**His Name.**  
From the Boston Herald.  
Brownlee—Atkins had much popular-  
ity as an artist, did he?

Whitehall—"No; not he; he was a fame that  
was not based upon popularity."

Brownlee—"What was his fame based upon, then?"

Whitehall—"Why, upon the fact that he  
never called a work 'Twilight's Dreamy Hours,'  
or 'A Gory Day.'"

**HOUSE AND HOME**

**Fancy Costumes for Boys and Girls.**  
The juvenile cyclist—low bodice and short  
straight skirt in steel-gray serge or cloth,  
decorated with two large wheels roughly  
embroidered with thread. Ribbons  
around the neck and down the front, to re-  
present the gutta-serena. Buttons in  
steel lace or tin, painted and wired in the  
semblance of wheels. Toy lantern at the top  
of the head. Horn slung with a ribbon on  
the side. Steel chain round the neck. A  
miniature cycle in paste diamonds shines on  
each rosette on the kid shoes.

**Trifles for the Toilet.**  
The Juvenile Cyclist—low bodice and short  
straight skirt in steel-gray serge or cloth,  
decorated with two large wheels roughly  
embroidered with thread. Ribbons  
around the neck and down the front, to re-  
present the gutta-serena. Buttons in  
steel lace or tin, painted and wired in the  
semblance of wheels. Toy lantern at the top  
of the head. Horn slung with a ribbon on  
the side. Steel chain round the neck. A  
miniature cycle in paste diamonds shines on  
each rosette on the kid shoes.

**The Juvenile Cyclist—low bodice and short  
straight skirt in steel-gray serge or cloth,  
decorated with two large wheels roughly  
embroidered with thread. Ribbons  
around the neck and down the front, to re-  
present the gutta-serena. Buttons in  
steel lace or tin, painted and wired in the**